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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO.

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 2 Mar 1949

COUNTRY Argentina

SUBJECT Argentine Vice President Juan Hortensio Quijano's  
Comments on the Argentine Economic Situation

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1. Miranda's economic tactics resulted in the loss to Argentina of her traditional overseas markets. This fact will either lower the Argentine standard of living or emphasize the necessity for increased Argentine production.
2. Argentina must collaborate to a greater extent with Great Britain and the United States.\* Argentina has fallen more completely into the United States sphere of influence, in spite of President Peron's energetic efforts to prevent it. Quijano and other Argentines have been following the financial situation in the United States very closely for any signs of a possible recession or depression, for they believe that any economic reversals in that country would prove critical to Argentina now that it is attempting to orient her economy toward the United States.
3. At cabinet meetings Quijano has proposed the curtailment of government expenditures for the armed forces. However, he advocates a large police force which, he believes, will be required by the government before the end of 1949 to quell disturbances caused by increasing labor unrest and strikes.
4. The Argentine government should adopt a firm economic policy which will allow the people a certain measure of security so far as their earnings and savings are concerned instead of an expedient day-to-day policy of higher wages and higher prices with its attendant insecurity.
5. The government must proceed cautiously in dealing with labor to avoid labor complications which opportunists in the army would seize upon in order to make things more difficult for the government.
6. The Communists should be treated with a firm hand, possibly to the extent of outlawing the Communist Party.

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7. With the sole exception of Foreign Minister Juan A. Bramuglia, who is the only good man in the cabinet, Peron is surrounded by a group of greedy and incompetent opportunists. Quijano and a large group of his followers are opposed to Peron's possible re-election not because of Peron himself but because of Mrs. Peron and her family, the Duartes. Quijano has been constantly annoyed by Mrs. Peron's meddlesome attitude and believes her presence in the Secretariat of Labor and Welfare is no longer necessary. He favors reducing her political and social aid activities to a bare minimum.
  8. Quijano recently submitted a report to Peron regarding the dismal conditions in the northern provinces of Argentina. Peron expressed surprise at the report as it did not agree with reports received from other government officials which depicted much more favorable conditions in that part of the country.
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